

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT:US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SOUDA AIR BASE

REF: A. ATHENS 6301 (241310Z JUN 76) B. ATHENS 6394

(261117Z JUN 76) C. STATE 177221 (170023Z JUL 76)

D. ATHENS 7335 (201702Z JUL 76)

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1. REVISED US DRAFT SOUDA AIR BASE APPENDIX CONTAINED IN REF A IS CONSISTENT WITH US REQUIREMENTS AND, SUBJECT TO CHANGES AND COMMENTS BELOW, IS APPROVED AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON 26 JULY. GREEKS WERE PROVIDED INFORMAL COPY OF DRAFT WITHOUT CHANGES DURING CALOGERAS' WASHINGTON VISIT. RATIONALE AND FALLBACK SUGGESTIONS IN REF B MAY BE USED AS APPROPRIATE.

A. ARTICLE I- PARA 3. INSERT "AUTHORIZED" BEFORE "PERSONNEL." "AUTHORIZED STRENGTH" IS MORE PRECISE AND PROVIDES FOR ROUTINE FLUCTUATION OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ACTUALLY ASSIGNED.

B. ARTICLE IV, PARA 2. CHANGE "TWENTY-FOUR HOURS" TO "TWELVE HOURS." CONSIDERING INHERENT DIFFICULTIES IN DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULING, A TWELVE-HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT IS MORE REALISTIC AND WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER

OF "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" NOTICES.

C. ARTICLE V. CHANGE TO READ: "AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR FOR UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES INTENDING TO LAND AT OR TAKE OFF FROM SOUDA AIR BASE ARE AUTHORIZED MOVEMENT IN GREEK AIRSPACE PROVIDING AN ICAO FLIGHT PLAN HAS BEEN FILED IN ADVANCE AND THE FLIGHT IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICAO REGULATIONS, SUPPLEMENTARY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO ALL AIRCRAFT, AND ANY TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MAY BE AGREED UPON BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS." FINAL TEXT IN THIS ARTICLE WILL DEPEND ON RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ACCESS ARTICLE (REF C, PARA 15). IF FINAL SENTENCE OF GENERAL ACCESS ARTICLE IS RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR, WE COULD ACCEPT SUBSTITUTION OF THAT SENTENCE FOR THIS ARTICLE OR COMPLETE DELETION OF THIS ARTICLE PROVIDED A SEPARATE AGREED TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT IS CONCLUDED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE DCA.

D. ARTICLE IX: CHANGE PARA 1 TO READ: "EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE AGREED THE GOVERNMENT OF US UNDERTAKES TO REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC FOR ACTUAL COST OF SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SUPPLIES REQUESTED AND RECEIVED BY
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US FORCES AT RATES AGREED TO BE REASONABLE."

2. USE OF SOUDA AIR BASE BY A LIMITED NUMBER OF USN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES IN NEGOTIATIONS TO REVISE THE 1959 SOUDA AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, WE CONSIDER THE LATEST FIRM GREEK STAND AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL AS REPORTED IN REF D TO BE AN UNFORTUNATE SETBACK.

A. AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION ON JULY 26, THE US DELEGATION SHOULD AGAIN SEEK TO DETERMINE IF ANY FLEXIBILITY EXISTS AT ALL ON THE GREEK POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. DRAW ON PREVIOUS US ARGUMENTS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE DRAMATIC RISE OF THE SOVIET MARITIME THREAT IN RECENT YEARS AND CONSEQUENTIAL DEMAND FOR INCREASED USN FLEXIBILITY.

B. IF SOME FLEXIBILITY IS INDICATED, PROPOSE A SERIES OF REDUCED TACTICAL SORTIE RATES, STARTING WITH 12 PER DAY/240 PER QUARTER AND DECREASING TO 8 PER DAY/160 PER QUARTER.

C. IF THE GREEKS DO NOT EXHIBIT ANY FLEXIBILITY, AND IT APPEARS THAT CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD JEOPARDIZE PROGRESS ON OTHER SOUDA ISSUES, THE US DELEGATION MAY ACCEPT THE GREEK POSITION SUBJECT TO GREEK AGREEMENT TO: (1) AUTHORIZE A MARITIME PATROL/LOGISTICS AIRCRAFT SORTIE RATE OF 219 PER QUARTER; (2) EXCLUDE HELICOPTERS FROM SORTIE RATE LIMITATIONS OR ESTABLISH A SEPARATE

HELICOPTER SORTIE RATE OF SIX PER DAY (FALLBACK IS FOUR) ON AN AVERAGE OF TWENTY DAYS PER QUARTER; (3) MAKE SOUDA AVAILABLE FOR TWENTY (FALLBACK IS FIFTEEN) CARRIER AIRCRAFT DIVERT ALERT DAYS PER QUARTER (4) RESUME DISCUSSIONS TO REEXAMINE THE QUESTION WHEN POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. WE DESIRE THIS LATTER ASSURANCE IN WRITTEN FORM, PREFERABLY IN AN MFA OR HELLENIC NAVY COMMAND CLASSIFIED LETTER TO THE APPROPRIATE US COUNTERPART. CONSIDERING THE PAST EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND PREVIOUS US FIRMNESS ON THIS ISSUE, OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE GREEK POSITION SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS A MAJOR US CONCESSION.

3. COST SHARING ISSUES. WE REMAIN READY TO ENTER INTO A FAIR AND EQUITABLE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER,
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WE CANNOT ACCEPT COSTS WHICH ARE UNREASONABLY DISPROPORTIONATE WITH OUR LEVEL OF OPERATIONS. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK GREEK AGREEMENT ON THE COST-SHARING FORMULA CONTAINED IN THE 1959 AGREEMENT AND REPEATED IN REF A AS MODIFIED BY PARA 1 D ABOVE. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE WITH THE GREEKS IN GREATER DETAIL AS SOON AS THE SPECIFIC LEVEL OF FUTURE USN OPERATIONS AT SOUDA IS AGREED.

ROBINSON

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